Access
News on WCB products, programs, and services
September 2003

ONLINE REPORTING AND REMITTING

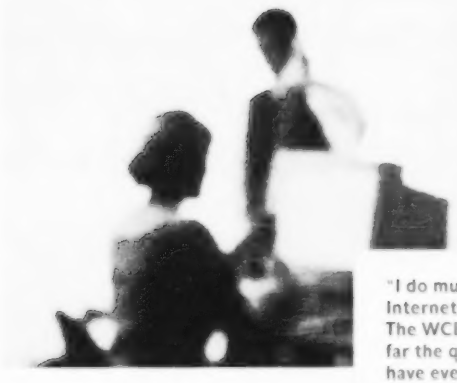
Submit your payroll report in four minutes or less

On average, that's all it takes when you use **Online Reporting and Remitting** — an Internet service that reduces the work involved in calculating your payroll figures. Thousands of employers are already using it, cutting the time it takes to file their Employer's Remittance Forms and payments. It's quick, it's easy, and it's designed to simplify your dealings with us so you can spend more time doing what's important to you: building your business.

Besides being able to report online, when you sign up for **Online Reporting and Remitting** you can select one of several payment plans, access your latest account balance, and make changes to your account details anytime, anywhere. So save your stamps for the holiday season—when you sign up for **Online Reporting and Remitting** there is no need to call us, visit us, or mail in your request. Your account information is at your fingertips!

And for those of you who rely on clearance letters to work in B.C., there's an added bonus. When you make your payment online, you'll receive your clearance more quickly. That means you may be in a better position to bid on a contract or receive a holdback for services provided to a contractor. If you're looking for quicker access to a clearance letter, **Online Reporting and Remitting** may be the solution for you.

To find out how you can start doing business with us online, go to our web site at **WorkSafebc.com** and select "Sign up" from the home page.



"I do much of my filing and payments through the Internet to many government-related agencies. The WCB Internet filing and payment system is by far the quickest, easiest, best-organized site I have ever used."

Tom Zallen, Owner, Topanga Cafe, Vancouver

Clearance Alert saves time, improves efficiency

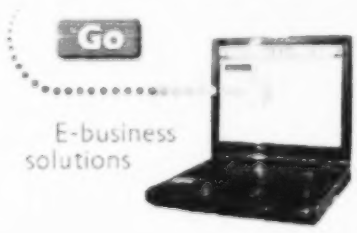
If you hire contractors on a regular basis, be sure to take advantage of **Clearance Alert**—a new Internet service that automatically advises you of any changes to a contractor's status with the WCB.

If you hire contractors who aren't registered with the WCB or haven't paid their premiums, you could be charged premiums for any work these contractors perform; so it's important to know about changes to their clearance status.

Clearance Alert allows you to submit a list of contractors to the WCB over a secured online server. You can add or remove names from the list as desired. The WCB monitors the clearance status of those contractors and notifies you by e-mail of any changes to their clearance rating.

Whether a contractor goes from good standing to cancelled or delinquent, or from delinquent back to good standing, you can be sure you're getting the most recent clearance status for contractors working for you.

To find out more, visit our web site at **WorkSafebc.com**.



Hiring assistance for B.C. employers

Are you having trouble finding skilled employees? Are you overwhelmed by the cost of hiring and training new workers? If so, you may want to check out the WCB's new Hire a Worker program—a free service designed to benefit both employers and injured workers. The program gives you access to skilled workers who have been injured on the job but are now ready to return to the workforce. It allows you to submit job opportunities online, to help connect with job candidates in the WCB's Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

The Hire a Worker program offers cost incentives to help offset the cost of hiring and training new employees. These incentives can include a brief, fully-funded work assessment, a cost-shared on-the-job training program, worksite modifications, and/or tuition costs for job-related courses. The program is part of the WCB's larger Employment Development and Placement (EDAP) strategy, designed to help injured workers find and secure employment.

For more information, contact WCB Vocational Rehabilitation Services at **604 276-3040** (toll-free at **1 866 266-9404**), or visit us online at **www.WorkSafebc.com/for_employers/**, then select "Return-to-work programs" from the list on the left-hand side of the screen.

NAOSHWeek Winners 2003

Twenty B.C.-based companies have been recognized for their outstanding promotion of workplace health and safety in this year's NAOSHWeek awards. North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSHWeek) is held annually to challenge employers, employees, and the general public to increase awareness of occupational health and safety issues.

2003 NAOSHWeek winners:

Best Overall - Pollard Banknote Ltd.

Best New Entry - Acro Aerospace Inc.

Best Presentation of Theme - Thrifty Foods #6, James Bay

Most Innovative - BC Biomedical Laboratories Ltd.

Best Organizational Effort - Mike Stortz, Overwaitea Food Group

Construction - Pacific Blasting & Demolition Ltd.

Educational Institutions - Simon Fraser University

Federally Regulated Agencies - Canadian Forces Base, 19 Wing Comox

Forestry - Interfor, Hammond Cedar

General Industry - Terasen Gas

Health Care - **BC Biomedical Laboratories Ltd.**

Manufacturing - Pollard Banknote Ltd.

Municipalities - Capital Regional District

Provincial/Crown Corporations - Legislative Assembly, Province of British Columbia

Retail - Thrifty Foods #6, James Bay

Small Business - Library Square Tower, BLJC

Tourism/Hospitality - CHIP Hospitality

Transportation of Goods - Rempel Bros. Concrete Ltd.

Transportation of People - Skytrain Ltd.

Participation Winner - A & A Anderson Tank Service

Next year's NAOSHWeek will take place May 2 to 8. To learn more about the event and how your organization can get involved, check out the NAOSHWeek web site at **www.WorkSafebc.com/news/campaigns/naosh_week/**

Policy decisions posted online

Each month, the WCB's Board of Directors makes policy decisions that affect the workers and employers of British Columbia. At the end of the month, a summary of those decisions is posted on our web site, along with a copy of the formal resolution of the Board of Directors. To access this information, visit us online at **www.WorkSafebc.com/law_and_policy/policy_decision/default.asp**

Preliminary rates announced for 2004

The WCB has announced the preliminary rates for 2004. The proposed rates show a modest increase in the average base rate—from $2.059 per $100 of assessable payroll in 2003 to $2.062 in 2004. The increase of less than 0.2 percent is proposed to cover projected costs in 2004 and beyond.

In setting the 2004 preliminary rates, the WCB had to consider a number of factors, including the downward trend in the British Columbia injury rate and the impact of legislative changes, which resulted in lower costs for workplace injuries. However, the organization also had to take into account the continuing under-performance of world financial markets on the WCB's investment returns.

For 2004, 95,000 (56 percent) of B.C.'s 170,000 employers will see their base rates either decrease or stay the same. The remaining 75,000 (44 percent) will see their base rates increase. Rate decreases are projected for several key industries including accommodation, health care, education, local government, and trucking. Increases are forecast for agriculture, fishing, forestry, oil and gas, construction, and utilities.

Over the summer, the WCB will meet with industry associations and other interested groups to discuss the proposed rates. Then, in the fall, the proposed 2004 rates will go to the WCB Board of Directors for approval. Once approved, employers will be able to view all their rate information online by logging on to the WCB's **Rate Information Letter** application.

Meanwhile, to view the 2004 preliminary rates, visit the Employer & Small Business Centre at **www.WorkSafebc.com**.

WorkSafe™

Access

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This newsletter is also available electronically on the WCB web site at **www.WorkSafebc.com/publications/newsletters/access/**

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